

1 **In the Claims**

2 Claims 23-55 were previously canceled without prejudice.

3 Claims 1-16 are canceled without prejudice.

4 Claims 56-61 are added.

5 Claims 17-22 and 56-61 remain in the application for consideration and are  
6 listed below:

7  
8 1.-16. (Canceled)

9  
10 17. (Original) A resource management system configured to manage  
11 resources comprising:

12 one or more resources that can be consumed by one or more agents; and

13 a handle administrator configured to administer a handle system in which  
14 handles to the one or more resources are provided to the agents and can be  
15 dereferenced into pointers to the one or more resources, the handle system  
16 comprising more than two states for a handle, the states comprising:

17 an assigned state in which a handle is associated with a resource and  
18 can be dereferenced into a pointer to that resource;

19 an unassigned state in which the handle is not associated with a  
20 resource and cannot be dereferenced into a pointer to any resources; and

21 a suspended state in which the handle is associated with a resource  
22 but cannot be dereferenced into a pointer to any resources.

23  
24 18. (Original) The resource management system of claim 17 further  
25 comprising one or more agents that are consumers of one or more resources.

1  
2 19. (Original) The resource management system of claim 17, wherein  
3 the handles can be suspended from the assigned state to the suspended state.  
4

5 20. (Original) The resource management system of claim 17, wherein  
6 the handles can be reinstated from the suspended state to the assigned state.  
7

8 21. (Original) The resource management system of claim 17, wherein  
9 the handles can be released from the suspended state to the unassigned state.  
10

11 22. (Original) The resource management system of claim 17, wherein  
12 the handles can be released from the suspended and the assigned states to the  
13 unassigned state.  
14

15 23.-55. (Canceled).  
16

17 56. (New) A resource management method for managing resources  
18 comprising:

19 providing one or more resources that can be consumed by one or more  
20 agents; and

21 providing a handle administrator configured to administer a handle system  
22 in which handles to the one or more resources are provided to the agents and can  
23 be dereferenced into pointers to the one or more resources, the handle system  
24 comprising more than two states for a handle, the states comprising:  
25

1 an assigned state in which a handle is associated with a resource and  
2 can be dereferenced into a pointer to that resource;

3 an unassigned state in which the handle is not associated with a  
4 resource and cannot be dereferenced into a pointer to any resources; and

5 a suspended state in which the handle is associated with a resource  
6 but cannot be dereferenced into a pointer to any resources.

7  
8 57. (New) The resource management method of claim 56 further  
9 comprising providing one or more agents that are consumers of one or more  
10 resources.

11  
12 58. (New) The resource management method of claim 56, wherein the  
13 handles can be suspended from the assigned state to the suspended state.

14  
15 59. (New) The resource management method of claim 56, wherein the  
16 handles can be reinstated from the suspended state to the assigned state.

17  
18 60. (New) The resource management method of claim 56, wherein the  
19 handles can be released from the suspended state to the unassigned state.

20  
21 61. (New) The resource management method of claim 56, wherein the  
22 handles can be released from the suspended and the assigned states to the  
23 unassigned state.